Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05796 151218Z

44
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11 IGA-02 DRC-01

HEW-08 /181 W
---------- 119654
P 151150Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7330

UNCLAS TEHRAN 5796

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, IR
SUBJECT: DRAFT OF AMENDMENTS TO IRAN'S NARCOTICS CONTROL ACT

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS TODAY CARRIED DISJOINTED ACCOUNTS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO IRAN'S NARCOTICS CONTROL ACT.

2. THE GOI ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD INTRODUCE ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS NEW MEASURES TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING USE, AND MANUFACTURE. THE DRIVE WILL CONSIST OF STRENGTHENED ACTIVITIES IN THREE AREAS: (1) AN INFORMATION PROGRAM TO ACQUAINT THE PUBLIC WITH THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE, (2) STRICTER DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND (3) PROVISIONS FOR BROADENED TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

3. IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT, STIFFER PUNISHMENT IS ANNOUNCED FOR: (1) POSSESSION OR TRANSPORT OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF HEROIN, (2) SMUGGLING, TRANSPORT OR POSSESSION OF HASHISH, (3) USE OF WOMEN OR CHILDREN AS COURIERS, (4) OPERATING OPIUM SMOKING DENS, AND (5) ISSUING FASE CERTIFICATES FOR DRUG ADDICTION. STRICT CONTROL OF THE IMPORT, POSSESSION, SALE OR TRANSFER OF TWO CHEMICALS USED IN THE PROCESSING AND MAN-
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05796 151218Z

UFACTURE OF HEROIN IS TO BE INSTITUTED. MORE EMPHASIS IS TO

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BE PLACED ON INTERROGATION OF THOSE ARRESTED FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS DEALERS BEHIND THEM. FOR THE FIRST TIME, TRAFFICKING IN OR USE OF LSD WILL BECOME PUNISHABLE UNDER THE LAW. GREATER CONTROL OVER CAFES, RESTAURANTS, KIOSKS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES WILL BE EXERCISED TO SEE THAT THEY ARE NOT USEDFOR THE SALE OF CONTRA-BAND DRUGS.

4.THE GOI WILL LAUNCH A NATIONWIDE DRIVE THROUGH ALL MEDIA OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO ACQUAINT THE PEOPLE WITH THE DANGERS OF NARCOTIC ADDICTION. IT WILL ENLIST THE ASSISTANCE OF PARENTS IN THIS EFFORT.

5. CONCURRENTLY, THE GOI WILL GREATLY EXPAND ITS PROGRAM FOR THE FREE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, ADDICTS WOULD BE TREATED AND THEN GIVEN JOBS AS ECOURAGEMENT TO ABSTAIN FROM DRUG ABUSE. NO OPIUM CONSUMPTION PERMIT IS TO BE GRANTED TO ANY ADDICT LESS THAN 40 YEARS OF AGE, AND THERE WILL BE STRICT CONTROL IN THE ISSUE OF SUCH PERMITS TO PEOPLE BETWEEN 40 AND 50 YEARS OF AGE.

6. TO CARRY OUT THIS PROGRAM THE GOI ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A "STRIKE FORCE" TO BE HEADED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTERS OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL WELFARE. AGENTS OF THE STRIKE FORCE WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO RAID SUSPECTED HOMES, CLUBS AND OTHER GATHERINGS OF PEDLARS OR USERS. ARTISTIC AND FOREIGN CIRCLES--INCLUDING FOREIGN YOUTH GATHERINGS-- ARE INCLUDED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW BODY.

7. COMMENT: A SOURCE IN THE GOI HAD STATED THAT NEW LEGIS-LATION WAS BEING PREPARED TO BOLSTER IRAN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST NARCOTICS, BUT NOTHING SO DRAMATIC WAS ANTICIPATED. EDITORIAL COMMENT LINKS IT TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN TURKEY THAT CONTROLLED GROWING OF OPIUM WOULD BE ALLOWED ONCE AGAIN. THE EMBASSY WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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